

Message Text

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R 161211Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 932

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: SDLP CONVENTION MEMBER CHARGES LOCAL SECURITY

FORCES HAVE SWITCHED ALLEGIANCE

REF: (A) BELFAST 204, 1974 (B) BELFAST 133, 1974

(C) BELFAST 131, 1974

1. IVAN COOPER CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION MEMBER FROM MID-ULSTER FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) HAS ISSUED SWEEPING CHARGE THAT ULSTER DEFENSE REGIMENT (UDR) ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) RESERVE, AND SIZEABLE NUMBER OF MEMBERS REGULAR RUC HAVE TRANSFERRED LOYALTIES FROM CROWN TO UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC). COOPER ADDRESSED WARNING TO SECRETARY OF STATE REES THAT THESE FORCES WOULD HELP ESTABLISH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IN UDI SITUATION. COOPER BASED ASSERTION PARTIALLY ON CLAIM PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE THAT IN HIS CONSTITUENCY UUUC HAD DIRECTED LARGE NUMBERS ADHERENTS TO ENLIST IN VARIOUS PART OR FULL TIME SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS.

2. DEMOCRATIC AND VANGUARD UNIONISTS REACTED STRONGLY TO COOPER CHARGE. REBUTTALS CENTERED AROUND SDLP RELUCTANCE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO ENUNCiate SUPPORT FOR SECURITY FORCES OR SUPPORT

RECRUITING WHILE AT SAME TIME CALLING FOR LAW AND ORDER.
OFFICIAL AND POLICE FEDERATION REACTIONS HAVE BEEN TO
REAFFIRM CONFIDENCE IN LOYALTY SECURITY FORCES AND DENY
THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS.

3. THERE IS PROBABLY SOME ELEMENT OF FACT IN COOPER
ALLEGATIONS AT LEAST TO EXTENT THAT ENLISTMENT IN RESERVE
FORCES AND RUC HAS BEEN HEAVILY PROTESTANT. THIS HAS
BEEN PATTERNS SINCE 1969 BUT IT BELIEVED THAT FOLLOWING
HMG REFUSAL TO PERMIT FORMATION "THIRD FORCE" MID-1974
THERE HAS BEEN CONCERTED EFFORT ON PART FORMER "B-SPECIALS"
AND OTHERS TO ENLIST IN PART TIME SECURITY FORCES (REFTELS).
CONCENTRATION OF EFFORT BY NORTHERN IRELAND GOVERNMENT TO
BRING REGULAR RUC UP TO STRENGTH BY GIVING RECRUITING
PREFERENCE TO CATHOLICS HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL.
IT ALSO BELIEVED GOVERNMENT HAS EXERCISED CONSIDERABLE
CONTROL OVER ADMISSIONS TO ALL BRANCHES OF SECURITY FORCES
FOLLOWING DELIBERATE POLICY TO EXCLUDE EXTREMISTS. MOST
POTENT FORCE IN ANY UDI SITUATION WOULD BE UDR WHICH HEAVILY
ARMED AND ORGANIZED IN LOCAL UNITS ALONG MILITARY LINES.
LOYALISTS WHO MOST FAVOR FORMATION "THIRD FORCE" PUBLICLY
HOWEVER HAVE CONSISTENTLY EMPHASIZED PRIMARY NEED FOR FORCE
WAS TO PROTECT HERETOFORE DEFENSELESS SMALL RURAL SETTLEMENTS
FROM PROVISIONAL IRA. WHILE THERE ELEMENTS WITHIN UUUC
WHICH CONTEMPLATE UDI CONTINGENCY WITH SOME FASCINATION,
UP TO NOW THEY HEAVILY OUTNUMBERED BY THOSE FAVORING
CONTINUED LINK OR EVEN INTEGRATION.

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